

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 647

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bethel Ray Poston, Jr.,
of Kingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Bethel Ray Poston, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Poston was an exemplary public servant and consummate
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Mr. Poston went on to attend
Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Poston opened Poston & Company, a retail furniture and
appliance store, in Kingston and, over the next forty years, expanded the business into
Crossville, Rockwood, Oak Ridge, and Harriman before selling the stores to Greer's Furniture;
he subsequently worked for ten years at Fowler's Furniture in corporate management as a
buyer and later as a marketing manager; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his success in the furniture business, Bethel Poston
developed a group of liquidation outlet stores, a laundromat, and a dry cleaning store; he
opened a fabric store with his wife and was an active partner in Pennybacker House Restaurant
in Kingston; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poston served as president of the Roane County Chamber and was
critical in establishing Roane County's Industrial Development Board, which he later served as
treasurer for over twenty years; he also served as president of the Kingston Jaycees and the
Kingston Business Association, was active in lobbying for the creation of Roane State

Community College, and served on the college's management & supervision advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Poston was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poston is survived by his loving wife, Carol Poston; sons, Barry Poston and Bryan Poston; grandchildren, Bethel Ray Poston IV, Stephanie Kostreva, Brady Poston, and Brannon Poston; and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by a son, Bethel Ray "Buddy" Poston III; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Ray Poston, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bethel Ray Poston, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Poston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.